GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1302
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2007
BAN ON IMPORT OF INDIAN RICE BY RUSSIA
Chaudhary Shri Pankaj;Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Russian Government has imposed ban on the import of Indian rice, groundnut and sesamseeds;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantum of loss incurred due the imposition of ban on these items by the Russian Government;

(d) whether the Government has taken any step in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The ban had been imposed on the ground of (a) detection of impermissible levels of pesticides in rice

(b) grain pests in groundnut and (c) detection of moldy odour, aflatoxin and metallomagnetic admixture.

(c) Going by the trend of monthly import of these three commodities by Russia, the estimated loss for the period from 1.6.2007 when the ban was imposedupto 31.07.2007 is Rs 14 Crores

(d)&(e) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken immediate steps when Russian Government indicated its intent to impose the ban. A delegation from the Russian Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary surveillance was invited to visit India in February, 2007.Subsequently during the visit of the Indian delegation to Moscow a protocol has been signed for Rice on 10th July, 2007 in Moscow. Subsequently, the Russian government has lifted ban on rice from 20th July 2007.The matter pertaining to lifting of ban on Groundnuts and sesame seeds is being negotiated with the Russian side.